



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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BARRETT ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF MILWAUKEE “DREAMERS”

Clarke Street first and second graders to receive academic and family support through college with “I Have A Dream”-Milwaukee program

Mayor Tom Barrett announced additional funding today for the 2008-2009 “I Have a Dream”-Milwaukee program at Clarke Street School, expanding this important initiative to bring in support for the Metcalfe Park neighborhood school, its students and their families.

This is the first year for “I Have A Dream”-Milwaukee, the 29th city for the national organization which sponsors entire grade levels of 50-100 students in under-resourced public schools and public housing developments.

Through the support of local sponsors and partners, each site provides a year-round program of educational and family services that start when the “Dreamers” are in early elementary grades and continues through high school and the first years of college. Upon high school graduation, each Dreamer receives financial assistance for higher education with prevailing in-state tuition rates serving as the minimum baseline guarantee.

Mayor Barrett first announced the “I Have A Dream”-Milwaukee program during his 2008 State of the City Address. The Mayor has led fundraising efforts to secure two years of operations spending and has also secured commitments that will pay for college costs for every first and second grader at Clarke Street School.

“At a time when discussions about the future of MPS are going on throughout this city, it’s important to recognize the many people working hard right now for our kids to change the way we approach urban education and help students be successful,” said Mayor Barrett. “I’m grateful to the many partners who are bringing this program to Milwaukee.”

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As part of a national organization, the Milwaukee Project will draw upon and be held to specific testing and outcome standards.

Milwaukee will access best practice models, tools to strengthen the core competencies of students and a strong history of success as demanded by the I Have A Dream Program. Participants will be tracked in terms of academic achievement, school attendance, after-school program participation and community service contributions by Dreamer staff.

Margaret Henningsen, "I Have A Dream"-Milwaukee Board President and Founder of Legacy Bank said, "What makes the Milwaukee affiliate so unique is that it will broaden its focus and include the needs of the Dreamer's family members. We fully recognize that in order to maximize Dreamer success, their families must be stable. That is why this program will also help families manage finances, own their homes and provide support that will not only prepare children for college success, but make it possible for them to graduate."

In addition to working closely with an MPS social worker and a program coordinator, participants will be enrolled in Clarke Street School's summer program administered in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. These investments will complement other neighborhood efforts such as the City's plan to grant the parents of Dreamers first priority to "lease to purchase" new homes in Metcalfe Park that were financed through City investment.

The City will also provide computers, free Internet access and training and support through a partnership with One Economy and AT&T. Legacy Bank will connect Dreamers and their families to basic banking services to build wealth and assets in these homes and in the neighborhood.

Today's announcement highlights the generous contribution of the Brady Corporation Foundation which enhances support already provided by Ted and Mary Kellner, the Milwaukee Public Schools, the City of Milwaukee, the Manpower Foundation, Legacy Bank, the Brinn Foundation, the Weiss Foundation and the Herzfeld Foundation.

Brady Corporation President and CEO Frank M. Jaehnert said, "The Brady Corporation Foundation is committed to leadership development in our communities and there is no better way to do that than to ensure a positive start for our youngsters and give them the building blocks they need to get the most out of their education. We are proud to be a part of this unique collaboration between the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Public Schools, local businesses, neighborhood organizations, and community philanthropists, and we are looking forward to the long-term success of the 'I Have A Dream' students at Clark St. school."

For more information about "I Have a Dream Foundation" visit
<http://www.ihaveadreamfoundation.org>